

DNR Migratory Gamebird Committee Meeting March 9, 2016

Attendance:

Taylor Finger (WDNR), Bill Hirt (WDNR- WCD), Korey Trowbridge (WDNR - LE), Paul Samerdyke (WDNR - SOD), Brenda Kelly (WDNR), Josh Martinez (WDNR), Michelle Carlisle (WDNR), Peter David (GLIFWC), Chip Lovell (USDA-APHIS), Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS), Greg Kidd (USDA-NRCS), Barry Benson (USDA-APHIS), Don Kirby (WI Waterfowl Association), John Wetzel (La Crosse County Conservation Alliance), Greg Egan (Hunters Rights Coalition), Brian Glenzinski (Ducks Unlimited), Jeff Scott (WI Conservation Congress), Mark Kakatsch (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation), Trenton Rohrer (WDNR), Linda Olver (WDNR – Customer Service)

Non-Members: Jacob Straub and Matt Palumbo

Not in Attendance:

Jason Fleener (WDNR), Sumner Matteson (WDNR – Natural Heritage Conservation), Joel Brice (Delta Waterfowl)

Update on Waterfowl Season and Season Proposals

- **Taylor Finger** – Provided presentation on updates regarding 2017 hunting season and spring outlook. Also provided background on new federal regulatory cycle as well as results from Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Lastly, Taylor provided information on plan for updating 10-year Waterfowl Plan.

Comments:

- Brenda Kelly would like to inform everyone that she will be holding a wingshooting course in La Crosse on April 28th
- Paul Samerdyke- informed the group USFWS Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will be visiting Horicon in March.
- Peter David would like to see the survival rates for drakes if given the chance out of curiosity.

Proposal Comments:

- Chip asked if there had been any talk about increasing the early goose season bag.

- Taylor informed everyone that the most recent CAGO management plan had been approved in 2017 and until written and approved again or revisited the bag would remain at 5 for the early season.

2018 Waterfowl Season Proposal and votes

- **Early Teal Season:** Sept 1- Sept 7 (6 birds/day) sunrise-sunset
- **Early Goose Season:** Sept. 1 – Sept. 15 (5 bird/day)
 - Unanimous support; Peter David - Abstain
- **Mourning Dove Season:** Sept. 1 – Nov. 29 (15 bird/day)
 - Unanimous support; Peter David - Abstain
- **Woodcock Season:** Sept. 24 – Nov. 7 (3 bird/day)
 - Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain
- **60 Day Season** – 6 ducks, no more than 4 mallards (only 1 may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 pintail and 2 canvasback. 5 mergansers, not more than 2 hooded. Coot daily bag of 15.
 - Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Duck Season Dates

Youth Hunt: Sept. 15 and 16

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

North Zone: Sept. 29 – Nov. 27

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

South Zone: Sept 29. – Oct. 7 & Oct. 13 – Dec. 2 (5 day split)

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Mississippi Zone: Sept 29 – Oct. 5 & Oct. 13 – Dec. 4 (7 day split)

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Comments:

- Don Kirby had a suggestion of opening for two days and then closing for 7 days
- Brenda Kelly, John Wetzel representing the Mississippi River would not support this have wanted to have split same time as South zone to prevent crowding

Goose Season Dates

Exterior Zone: 92 days total. Daily Bag of 3

- **North** – Sept. 16 – Dec. 16
 - Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain
- **South** – Sept. 16 – Oct. 7 & Oct. 13 – Dec. 21
 - Or**
 - Sept 16- Oct 7 & Oct 13 – Dec 2 & Dec. 16- Jan 3
 - Support; Peter David – Abstain
- **Miss.** – Oct. 1 – Oct. 7 & Oct. 15 – Jan. 5
 - Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain
- **Horicon zone-** Eliminate zone based on biological, social, and regulatory factors
 - Unanimous support; Peter David- Abstain

Comments:

- **Don Kirby** - proposed from what he has heard around the state along with points regarding R3 and opportunity that the committee think about proposing a Christmas hunt in the south zone closing the goose season with the duck season and opening back up with remaining days during the holiday week working back from the Mississippi River goose season close date. In agreement Brian Glenzinski and Mark Kakatsch
- **Jon Wetzel and Brenda Kelly**-both are hesitant to only propose that option because we failed to promote this heavily during public involvement prior to the proposal and see what public input came back as.

Snow/Blue Geese, Ross' Geese, Brant, White-fronted Geese and other geese

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Daily Bag Limits:

White Geese (Snow/Blue Geese and Ross' Geese) – 20

Brant – 1

Greater White-Fronted Geese - 1

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain
- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Other Migratory Bird Seasons

Coot, Moorhen, Rails and Snipe: Same as wild ducks in the zone in which you are hunting.

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Daily Bag Limit:

Coot and Moorhen – 15

Sora & Virginia Rails – 25

Snipe – 8

- Unanimous support; Peter David – Abstain

Peter David (GLIFWC) Update:

- 2017 tribal hunting seasons did not get approved until 5 weeks after the season closed. Glad to see department is also frustrated with issues with migratory office as well.
- Hand thrown nets and snares and E-callers can will be permitted during the 2018 season.
- Will be looking into working with LE to possibly have hunters give locations where these E-callers are being used.
- This again is experimental and would like to see how things play out. Peter does not think we will see much user conflicts with special permits being required to hunt with these E-callers and nets and snares.
- DNR may work with Peter to help come up with language for our regulations to inform hunters of this experiment.

Chip Lovell (USDA-APHIS) Canada Goose/mute swan update

- Mostly work with private nuisance round ups
- In 2017 roundups occurred at 30 locations with the numbers of Canada geese being consistent to the last 10 years.
- Most meat is utilized with very minimal being sent to landfill.
 - Peter David wanted to know if meat was tested in any way
 - All meat is tested under USDA Canada goose protocol if going to a food pantry
- 23 band recoveries with 19 coming from geese near where first banded.
- Growing number of roundups in the north but still majority taking place in the Southeast part of the state.
 - Peter David will be looking into USDA help for Canada Goose management in his area

- Mute swan numbers have gone way down in Wisconsin. With the stronghold in Green Bay no longer persisting but still a few in SE Wisconsin.

10 Year Plan Update

- Introduction of Matt Palumbo as the Postdoc out of UWSP working on updating the 1992 Wisconsin Plan (this plan helps in where money is spent in wetlands across the state).
 - o Matt and Taylor would both like to see these plans work in conjunction with one another and Matt is open to any/all questions or comments on his side of the plan from our committee. This plan is hopefully completed by June of 2019.
 - o The Wisconsin plan is a step-down plan of the JV plan.
- Taylor would like to see input on if we should restructure the new plan and have two separate documents one for history and one for the next 10 years. (everyone agreed.)
 - o Doing this will help things stay concise and simple.
- Taylor talked about the old plan and due to priorities, staffing, most objectives and goals didn't get met or achieved.
- Spring surveys and fall flights on Mississippi River and Green Bay are really only waterfowl surveys done in the state.
 - o Mead wildlife area is viewed by Taylor as the best example of how we would like to see things run on our waterfowl properties with surveys and meetings that occur.
 - o Wisconsin had 6 waterfowl researchers in the state and currently don't have any but hope to have one by May/June.
- Canada goose management objective may be the only one met.
- We need to be able to measure our success in the objectives.
 - o How do we know R3 is working?
- Taylor asked everyone to look at the plan and answer these questions.
 - o What's important?
 - o Have Objectives changed?
 - o How should we go about this?
 - o Why is this important?
 - o How do we assess our accomplishments?
 - o What's realistic?
- Ad Hoc committee will form and meet this summer to address the beginning stages of the process. Hope to have plan implemented by 2020.